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March 26, 1973 5.ZP - cc: LW

Amb. R

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OFFICIAL INFORMAL

The Honorable
William M. Rountree
American Ambassador
Brasilia

Dear Mr. Ambassador:

Enclosed with this letter is our briefing memo to the Secretary on his meeting with Foreign Minister Gibson Barboza. I am sending it along simply to give you the flavor. The constraints of format and brevity limit its value in terms of the substance, it seems to me.

As you note, we are asking the Secretary to bring up the subject of Law of the Sea. There had been some hesitancy to do so here on the part of different offices in the Department for two reasons:

The first is that whatever flexibility is beginning to appear in the Brazilian position is due to their concern over their growing isolation among Latin Americans on the subject. The feeling is that the best way to get the Brazilians to move, therefore, is more of the same. That is, isolate them further. Others point out that we are developing more rapport and communication with some of the more moderate Latin Americans who might be puzzled to see us consulting with the Brazilian "extremists" on the subject.

A second caution arises from the fact that our own official position is still far from the "patrimonial sea" concept. In any official discussions of the matter, our representatives would have to take the same line Warner and Stevenson took in Brasilia in 1971.

Sincerely,

Stephen Low
Director
Office of Brazilian Affairs

Encl - a/s

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GDS

Declassified Authority: 44281 By: Laurie
Madsen Date: 04-15-2015



DEPARTMENT OF STATE
BRIEFING MEMORANDUM

S/S

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With SECRET Attachment

TO : The Secretary

FROM: ARA - John Hugh Crimmins

Minister of External Affairs Mario Gibson
Barboza (pronounced: GIB-sun bar-BOSE-ah)

Addressed as: Mr. Minister

You have agreed to meet with Brazilian Foreign
Minister Gibson Barboza during his visit to Washington
to attend the OAS General Assembly. Gibson Barboza
speaks fluent English.

Issues and Talking Points

You last met Gibson Barboza in September, 1972
at the UN General Assembly when you discussed hijacking,
Cuba, and the excellent state of US-Brazilian relations.

Courtesy Points

You may wish to:

--note that his recent travels to Africa and the
Middle East seem to indicate he has recovered from
the riding accident which kept him from last year's
OAS/GA.

Issues We Recommend You Raise

Law of the Sea - The Brazilians may be willing to
modify their extreme LOS position (full sovereignty to
200 miles) once they fully understand our security concerns.
Ambassador Rountree believes you might usefully bring up
the subject with the Foreign Minister. You may want to:

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--express the hope that despite our different viewpoints Brazil shares our desire to get meaningful negotiations underway promptly and offer to have Professor John Norton Moore call on the Foreign Minister to discuss the matter.

Coffee - The GOB informed Ambassador Rountree on March 21 of their intention to unilaterally denounce the 1971 U.S.-Brazilian Agreement on soluble coffee (which provides a rebate of the Brazilian export tax to our processors). You may want to:

--comment that you are concerned to learn that Brazil is considering unilateral denunciation of our Soluble Coffee Agreement. Indicate your concern over the impact of such an action on attitudes in the U.S. industry and Congress relating to issues beyond the Soluble Agreement. Damage could be done to our common long run interests in a stable coffee market and desire to continue to resolve bilateral differences through quiet diplomacy.

Brazilian Role in the OAS - Brazilian representatives played a prominent role in support of the Chileans at the recent IA-ECOSOC meeting in Bogota. However, President Medici has stated that the OAS should not isolate its members but rather "harmonize and unite the points of view of the American countries" to create more effective cooperation in world affairs. You might wish to:

--note the similarity of President Medici's and our views on the OAS and the failure of these views to prevail at Bogota.

--add that, in view of the active part played by Brazil in OAS affairs and our need to re-examine our role in that organization, you would welcome Gibson Barboza's views on how we might move forward from the barren Bogota-type meeting.

Issues They May Raise

President Nixon's Possible Visit to Brazil -

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3.

President Nixon signed a reply (attached) on March 21 to President Medici's letter restating his invitation to visit Brazil. You may want to:

--note that President Nixon is hopeful of being able to visit Brazil this year but has not yet been able to make definite plans.

Cuba - The Brazilians are concerned that the Venezuelans may get an innocuously worded resolution passed in the OAS which could serve as the basis for Latin American nations' removing sanctions and establishing relations with Cuba. You may:

--restate our agreement on Cuban policy and the need to work together to counter such action.

Attachment:

1. Biography (*Did not send his w/omb's copy*),
2. President Nixon's response of March 21

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Drafted: ARA/BR:SLow:DMcLain:CWReynolds:gjb
x21244:3/26/73

Concurrence: ARA/BR:SLow

Clearances:

LOS - ARA/LA/PLC:RRidgway

Coffee - ARA/ECP:JSlattery

OAS - ARA/OAS:FCrigler

Cuba - ARA/CCA:PKJohnson

ARA/OAS:FCrigler

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Mário GIBSON Alves BARBOZA
(Phonetic: GIBsun bahrBOHzah)

BRAZIL

Minister of Foreign
Affairs

Addressed as:
Mr. Minister



Mário Gibson Barboza, 53, became Minister of Foreign Affairs on 30 October 1969. He had previously served since February 1969 as Ambassador to the United States. He is a capable and respected diplomat, knowledgeable of and generally well disposed toward the United States, although he is pursuing an active, expansionist foreign policy that will occasionally bring Brazil and the United States into conflict on commercial issues.

FOIA(b)(1)

The Foreign Minister is well groomed and urbane. His English ancestry (several generations removed) is reflected in his fair complexion and his blue eyes as well as in his name. He is married and has two grown children. Gibson Barboza speaks fluent English and French.

November 1971

ARA

Copies to:

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

ARA
S/CPR
RF

March 21, 1973

Dear Mr. President:

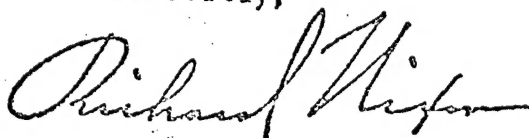
Thank you for your kind letter and good wishes for the success of my second term in office. I am confident that the spirit of cooperation and respect which characterizes relations between our two countries will continue to grow in the years to come.

Your invitation to Mrs. Nixon and me to visit Brazil is most welcome. I look forward to the opportunity to renew our friendship and to build further on the fruitful consultations which we held in December, 1971, and which we have maintained since then through our correspondence.

I know you will understand, Mr. President, that the demands at the beginning of this new Administration make a definite and precise commitment difficult for me at this time. I can assure you, however, of my earnest desire to accept your invitation and of my hope that it will be possible to arrange a visit later in the year. You can be sure that, in planning my future schedule, I shall keep your invitation very much in mind. It would give Mrs. Nixon and me great pleasure to see you and Mrs. Medici again and to visit your great country.

With warmest personal regards.

Sincerely,



His Excellency
Emilio Garrastazu Medici
President of the Federative
Republic of Brazil
Alvorada Palace
Brasilia